

Minutes: Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

August 19, 2014

Mayor's Office – Media Room

BPAC members present: Kim Hawkins, Tom Grooms, John Norris, Chris Fleming, Amy Eskind, Chas Irvin, Edwin Williamson, Freddie O'Connell, Peter Westerholm, Mary Pat Teague, Rex Hammond

Chairperson Kim Hawkins called the meeting to order 4:00 p.m.

Kim Hawkins asked if there was any discussion on the minutes from the June 24, 2014 meeting. Seeing none, John Norris moved that the minutes be adopted as submitted, Mary Pat Teague seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Announcements:

NACTO Urban Street Guide Presentation and Discussion:

Jessica Wilson, TDOT, presented information about NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) guidelines, which includes sections on - Streets, Street Design Elements, Interim Design Strategies, Intersections, Intersections Design Elements, and Design Controls.

Kim Hawkins announced that Tennessee is the sixth state to endorse the NACTO guidelines. In addition, Kim Hawkins read a letter from Mark Macy, Metro Public Works, to Edward Reiskin, President of NACTO, announcing Metro Nashville's endorsement of the guidelines. Nashville joins Chattanooga and Memphis in their endorsements.

John Norris moved that BPAC commend Metro Public Works on their endorsement of the NACTO guidelines. Tom Grooms seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Pedestrian Construction Zone Safety:

Rory Rowan, Metro Public Works, discussed the department's policy on sidewalk closure during construction. All work in the right-of-way must be permitted and is handled by Rory Rowan. Sidewalks are closed during construction for safety reasons, which is handled through the construction permitting process. Permit holders are required to provide an alternate route using advance signage that a sidewalk is closed ahead and such signs should be located at a marked crosswalk. If a sidewalk is going to be closed for an extended period of time Public Works encourages, but does not require, closed sidewalks be covered. Sidewalk closure permitting follows an internal Public Works policy.

Pedestrian Safety – Crash Data Report from MNPd:

Sgt. Lovell, MNPd, presented information about the pedestrian safety crash data. The Fatal Crash Unit investigates all fatal accidents. In 2010 – 15 pedestrians were killed in accidents, in 2014 the number decreased to 11. Of these accidents, 60% occurred when the pedestrian was outside of a crosswalk

when crossing the roadway. Pedestrian fatalities generally happen at night. During the last five years there has been one bike fatality.

MNPD is distributing illuminated arm bands to pedestrians in areas with high rate pedestrian accidents.

John Norris asked if additional signage could be installed to remind motorists to be aware of pedestrian crossings in areas with higher rates of pedestrian accidents.

On October 4, 2014 at the Metro South, Genesco Building, MNPD is holding education safety day.

Stacy Dorris questioned why the police comment to media after a fatal crash that no charges have been filed, instead of reporting that charges are pending investigation.

Commuter Routes Committee:

Much progress has been made over the past few months regarding the addition of buffered bike lanes. A note of thanks for Jason Raddinger and Laurel Creech for their work on commuter routes.

A press release will be going out tomorrow (Wednesday, August 20th) regarding the first “Green Bike Box” which is installed at the corner of 9th and Church. It will be the first bike box in Tennessee.

Peter Westerholm reported on the Woodland Street Protected Bike Lane project. The next step is to meet with residential and commercial neighbors about the pros and cons of the project. Currently, the protected bike lane will run from 10th street to 5th street.

Jason Raddinger requested assistance in determining where bike parking is needed. It was suggested he get in touch with the bike messengers.

John Harkey – reported on the possible bike blvd. from Centennial Park to downtown that would utilize Patterson Street. St. Thomas Midtown has endorsed the project. They are in talks with Greenways. Third phases of this project would connect it from Centennial Park to the Richland Creek Greenway and would include streetscaping the route.

Tom Grooms offered a motion to approve the proposed Patterson Street route. John Norris seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Laurel Creech suggested John speak with Tim Netsch about Parks involvement.

Speakers Bureau:

Michael Briggs walked the committee through the draft “Moving in Harmony” bike and pedestrian education presentation. Due to time, Kim Hawkins asked that committee members submit all suggested changes to Michael via email. She also encouraged BPAC members to think of organizations and community groups where the presentation can be scheduled. When the presentation is finalized Laurel Creech will arrange for the presentation to be loaded onto the BPAC web site.

BPAC Ordinance: Council Sponsor:

Kim Hawkins led a brief discussion about the future status of the BPAC, which was originally created by an Executive Order issued by Mayor Dean. Kim asked Peter Westerholm, as BPAC's Metro Council representative, if he would consider introducing an ordinance to institutionalize BPAC. Peter said he would ask Council staff to research the necessary steps.

Bike Friendly Community:

Kim Hawkins reported the League for American Bicyclists rated Nashville at 25 out of 100 points, or a bronze ranking, due to the low number of bicyclist commuting to work. Steve Clark, the American Bicyclists' representative, joined several BPAC members on a bike ride when he was in town for the Bike Summit. As a result of that visit, he submitted Nashville's bike report card. The next opportunity to resubmit the Bike Friendly Community application is February, 2015. Freddie O'Connell, Nora Kerns, Tom Grooms, John Norris, and Kim Hawkins all volunteered to work on the application with Jason Raddinger. Jason will convene this committee soon.

Updates:

Laurel Creech has been meeting with Metro Public Works on a Parklet Program that will be announced at the Park(ing) Day on September 19, 2014.

Open Streets is set for October 25th. The exact location will be announced shortly.

Mountain Bike Trails in Warner Parks were dedicated in early August. There are now mountain bike trails in every corridor of Nashville.

Announcements:

John Harkey announced that bike counts will take place from September 9 through the 11th. Walk Bike Nashville is coordinating the counts and will be assisted by Vanderbilt students.

Tactical Urbanism in The Nations is Saturday, August 23 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Stone Fox.

The Walk 100 at Bells Bend is coming up and the last Walk 100 event is Saturday, August 30 at 8 a.m. starting at the Public Square Park.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.